

**In the Claims**

Add new claims 22-23.

Amend claims 1, 6, 11, 15, 16 and 19 as shown in the following entire set of pending claims (underlines indicate insertions; ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions).

1. (Currently amended) A clothing apparatus, comprising:  
at least one fabric panel configured to encompass a patient thoracic region;

a panel of stretch fabric joined to the fabric panel about the thoracic region of a patient when wearing the clothing apparatus, a free edge of the overlapping stretch fabric panel configured to be releasably mated along an overlapping area of the stretch fabric panel with one of the fabric panel and the stretch fabric panel;

a sensor unit retaining pocket provided between the at least one fabric panel and the stretch fabric panel; and

a sensor unit having a sensor configured for direct contact with a skin surface of a patient; and

a light opaque fabric provided in the fabric panel about an opening in an inner surface of the fabric panel contiguous with the retaining pocket, the opening configured to enable ~~a~~ the sensor unit received within the pocket to maintain direct contact with a skin surface of a patient over the thoracic heart region and the light opaque fabric configured to reduce ambient light levels immediately surrounding the pocket opening.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stretch fabric panel comprises a band of stretch fabric sewn to the at least one fabric panel and configured to encircle the thoracic region of a patient.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the band of stretch fabric encircles the fabric panel and overlaps onto itself, and a free edge of the overlapping stretch fabric band is configured to overlie itself.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein a releasable fastener is provided about the free edge of the stretch fabric band.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the releasable fastener comprises a hook and loop fastener strip assembly, the free edge comprises a flap, and one of a hook strip and a loop strip is affixed to the flap and a remaining one of the hook strip and the loop strip is affixed to an overlain portion of the band.

6. (Currently amended) A carrier for a biophysical sensor, comprising:  
a clothing article having a retaining pocket with a light opaque fabric on one side and an opening on another side, the opening configured to be placed proximate a patient's thoracic region upon wearing the carrier.

7. (Original) The carrier of claim 6 wherein the clothing article comprises a fabric panel configured to encircle a patient thoracic region and a band encircling the fabric panel and joined with the fabric panel to provide the retaining pocket therebetween.

8. (Original) The carrier of claim 6 wherein the clothing article comprises an infant undershirt.

9. (Original) The carrier of claim 8 wherein the clothing article comprises at least one fabric panel configured to encompass a patient thoracic region and a panel of stretch fabric sewn to the at least one fabric panel.

10. (Original) The carrier of claim 9 wherein the panel of stretch fabric comprises an elastic fabric band configured to encircle the infant undershirt.

11. (Currently amended) ~~The carrier of claim 10 wherein the retaining pocket is formed between the elastic fabric band and one or more of the at least one fabric panel~~ A carrier for a biophysical sensor, comprising:

an infant undershirt comprising at least one fabric panel configured to encompass a patient's thoracic region and a panel of stretch fabric sewn to the at least one fabric panel and comprising an elastic fabric band configured to encircle the infant undershirt having a retaining pocket with a light opaque fabric on one side and an opening on another side, the retaining pocket formed

between the elastic fabric band and one or more of the at least one fabric panel, and the opening configured to be placed proximate a patient's thoracic region upon wearing the carrier.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A carrier for a biophysical sensor, comprising  
a sensor unit;

means for supporting ~~a~~ the sensor unit over a patient thoracic region;

means for inhibiting the passage of light to ~~a~~ the sensor unit supported by the means for supporting ~~a~~ the sensor unit; and

means for providing direct contact with a skin surface of a patient over a thoracic region for ~~a~~ the sensor unit supported by the means for supporting ~~a~~ the sensor unit.

16. (Currently amended) The carrier of claim 15 further comprising means for encompassing a patient thoracic region with the means for supporting ~~a~~ the sensor unit.

17. (Previously presented) The carrier of claim 16 further comprising means for elastically encompassing a patient thoracic region.

18. (Previously presented) The carrier of claim 17 further comprising means for releasably fastening the means for elastically encompassing a patient thoracic region.

19. (Currently amended) The carrier of claim 15 wherein the means for supporting a the sensor unit comprises an infant clothing article.

20. (Previously presented) The carrier of claim 19 wherein the infant clothing article comprises at least one fabric panel.

21. (Previously presented) The carrier of claim 20 wherein the infant clothing article further comprises an elastic fabric panel.

Add new claims 22 and 23:

22. (New) The carrier of claim 11 wherein the retaining pocket is a rectangular pocket.

23. (New) The carrier of claim 11 wherein the retaining pocket includes a releasable fastener configured to open and close a free end of the retaining pocket.